

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said method comprising:
selecting an implant dimensioned so as to be implanted within said pharyngeal airway;
said implant having a mechanical characteristic of elasticity to be biased toward a rest position; and
placing said implant into said airway with said implant biasing said airway to patency; and
wherein said implant has a longitudinal component with a longitudinal axis and said
implant is placed with said axis extending transverse to an axis of said pharyngeal airway.
2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is placed beneath a mucosal surface of said pharyngeal wall.
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant includes a fibrosis-inducing material.
4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is a polyester.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5 wherein said implant is curved to conform to a curvature of said airway.
7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant has a longitudinal axis and said implant is placed with said axis extending parallel to an axis of said pharyngeal airway.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is not connected to a bony structure.
9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said apparatus comprising:
- an implant dimensioned so as to be implanted within said pharyngeal airway;
- said implant has a longitudinal component with a longitudinal axis and said implant is placed with said axis extending transverse to an axis of said pharyngeal airway; and
- said implant having a mechanical characteristic of elasticity to be biased toward a rest position selected to bias said airway to patency.
10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said implant is adapted to be placed beneath a mucosal surface of said pharyngeal wall.
11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said implant includes a fibrosis-inducing material.
12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said implant is a polyester.
13. (Canceled).
14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said implant is curved to conform to a curvature of said airway.
15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said implant has a longitudinal axis and said implant is adapted to be placed with said axis extending parallel to an axis of said pharyngeal airway.